United Nations A/62/117

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 July 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Item 109 of the preliminary list*
International drug control

International cooperation against the world drug problem

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 61/183 of 20 December 2006, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of that resolution. The report provides an overview of the implementation of mandates relating to international drug control, in particular the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

* A/62/50.

V.07-85272 (E) 310707 310707

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 61/183 of 20 December 2006 entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem" the General Assembly, reaffirming the Political Declaration adopted by it at its twentieth special session (Assembly resolution S-20, annex), in 1998, and the importance of meeting the objectives targeted for 2008 and reaffirming also the joint ministerial statement adopted at the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (A/58/124, sect. II.A), the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (Assembly resolution 54/132, annex) and the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development (Assembly resolution S-20/4 E), called upon all States to strengthen their efforts to achieve the goals set for 2008 at its twentieth special session.

2. In addition, in its resolution 61/183, the General Assembly urged all States to promote and implement the outcome of its twentieth special session, as well as the outcome of the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission, to implement the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and to strengthen their national efforts to counter the abuse of illicit drugs; invited States to continue to strengthen their efforts to implement innovative alternative development programmes; called for a comprehensive approach integrating alternative development programmes, including preventive alternative development, into wider economic and social development programmes; invited States to consider adjusting their drug control strategies, taking into account the results of the annual surveys by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of illicit crop cultivation; and called upon, inter alia, Member States to increase their efforts to empower local communities and authorities in order to increase their ownership of the development measures taken in accordance with national legislation.

3. In addition, the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/183, encouraged the Commission and the International Narcotics Control Board to continue their work on the control of precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; and urged all Governments to provide the fullest possible financial and political support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime so as to enable it to continue, expand and strengthen its operational and technical cooperation activities, within its mandates, and recommended that a sufficient share of the regular budget of the United Nations be allocated to the Office to enable it to carry out its mandates.

II. International cooperation to counter the world drug problem

A. Follow-up by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

4. At its fiftieth session, the Commission emphasized the importance of an approach balancing law enforcement and demand reduction measures and reaffirmed the importance of drug demand reduction in the development of national

responses to the drug problem (E/2007/28, para. 44). The Commission noted that according to the fourth biennial report of the Executive Director, most Member States had made progress in developing comprehensive demand reduction strategies focusing on youth and vulnerable groups but concern was expressed at increases in the abuse of certain drugs in some regions (para. 31). In addition, it was noted that controls over new synthetic substances should be introduced swiftly (para. 62). The Commission also emphasized the importance of reliable and comparable data on drug abuse and the essential role that good quality data played in supporting the formulation of evidence-based responses for demand reduction (E/2007/28, paras. 31, 44, 45 and 62).

5. The Commission highlighted the importance of primary prevention and underlined the need to develop programmes based on international experiences and best practices. School-based prevention programmes, campaigns to raise public awareness about the risks and consequences of using psychoactive substances, and the involvement of the media, the entertainment industry and other sectors, were noted as having a strong influence on attitudes and behaviour among youth. Poverty, social exclusion and the lack of prospects were noted as factors that increased vulnerability to drug abuse (E/2007/28, para. 46).

6. Alarm was expressed at the situation regarding HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases contracted through drug abuse. The Commission welcomed the role of UNODC in strengthening responses to the problem of HIV/AIDS infection as a consequence of drug dependence and supported its work as a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in drug abuse prevention, in particular as it related to the care and prevention of HIV/AIDS among injecting drug abusers, including in prison settings, and to trafficking in persons (E/2007/28, paras. 48 and 49).

7. The Commission considered the threat that illicit drug trafficking posed to the international community and expressed the need to enhance international and regional coordination, particularly in the areas of law enforcement, the engagement of States and agencies in joint initiatives and strategies to counter the production of and trafficking in drugs, combined with a concerted approach to the control of precursor chemicals. Good border control was considered essential to effective drug control, as was building cross-border cooperation between neighbours and regions, including through the establishment of regional cooperation initiatives (E/2007/28, paras. 32 and 56).

8. The Commission expressed concern about the increase in illicit opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan. It noted that the international community had to continue supporting the Government of Afghanistan in the implementation of its national drug control strategy and recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution entitled "Support to the counter-narcotic measures and programmes of Afghanistan" to promote action in that regard. Some speakers noted the link between the production of narcotic drugs and terrorism in Afghanistan (E/2007/28, paras. 1 and 57).

9. Concern was expressed over the manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants and the precursor chemicals used to manufacture them (E/2007/28, para. 62).

10. The thematic debate was devoted to the new challenges for controlling precursor chemicals, including new trends in diversion and trafficking in precursors for the illicit manufacture of amphetamine-type stimulants, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The Commission adopted the following resolutions to enhance the control of precursors: resolution 50/5, entitled "Identifying sources of precursors used in illicit drug manufacture"; resolution 50/6, entitled "Promoting collaboration on the prevention of diversion of precursors"; resolution 50/7, entitled "Strengthening the security of import and export documents relating to controlled substances"; resolution 50/9, entitled "Use of drug characterization and chemical profiling in support of drug law enforcement intelligence-gathering and operational work, as well as trend analysis"; and resolution 50/10, entitled "Prevention of diversion of drug precursors and other substances used for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances" (E/2007/28, paras. 3-20).

B. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

1. Action by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

11. In the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session (Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex), the Assembly called upon all States to report biennially to the Commission on their efforts to meet the goals and targets set for 2003 and 2008, and requested the Commission to analyse those reports in order to enhance the cooperative effort to combat the world drug problem (resolution S-20/2, para. 20). The Commission, in its resolution 42/11, requested that those reports be submitted for its examination at its sessions in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2008 (para. 3).

12. At its fiftieth session, the Commission considered the fourth biennial report of the Executive Director of UNODC on the world drug problem (E/CN.7/2007/2 and Add.1-6). The report drew on the responses by Member States to the biennial reports questionnaire covering the period from June 2004 to June 2006 and on other sources such as the information provided by States in the annual reports questionnaire and the UNODC illicit crop monitoring surveys.

13. The Commission noted that the report of the Executive Director provided a valuable representation of the progress made by Member States in meeting the goals set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. It also noted that the report indicated that Member States continued to make significant progress towards meeting the goals for 2008 set at the special session. The Commission further noted that the drug problem was particularly acute in those countries affected by poverty, lack of security and economic stagnation, and urged Member States to include measures against drugs in strategies to achieve sustainable economic development (E/2007/28, paras. 24, 25 and 34).

14. In its resolution 50/12, entitled "Measures to meet the goal of establishing by 2009 the progress achieved in implementing the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session", the Commission, underscoring the value of an objective, scientific, balanced and transparent assessment by Member States of the global progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set by the Assembly at its twentieth special session, requested the Executive Director of UNODC to submit to the Commission at its fifty-first session

the report to be prepared pursuant to its resolution 42/11, drawing together information gathered in all previous biennial reports questionnaires and other relevant sources.

15. In addition, in its resolution 50/12, the Commission decided that, at its fifty-first session, the thematic debate should be devoted to a discussion on progress made in meeting the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, taking into account the report to be presented by UNODC of the final assessment report; requested UNODC to invite relevant intergovernmental, international and regional organizations to make available supplementary information in order to facilitate the deliberations of the Commission; decided to convene a high-level segment, open to all Member States, during its fifty-second session, in 2009, in order to allow additional time for conducting a global assessment of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the Assembly in 1998, and to submit to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council the results of the global assessment of the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session; and agreed that preparations for the high-level segment would be initiated at its fifty-first session.

2. Action by Governments

16. The fourth biennial report of the Executive Director (E/CN.7/2007/2 and Add.1-6) contained an overview and detailed analysis of the efforts by Governments to implement the following action plans and measures emanating from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: (a) the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (Assembly resolution 54/132); (b) the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development; (c) measures to promote judicial cooperation (Assembly resolution S-20/4 C); (d) the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (Assembly resolution S-20/4 A); (e) control of precursors (Assembly resolution S-20/4 B); and (f) countering money-laundering (Assembly resolution S-20/4 D).

17. A total of 94 States[1] and the European Commission responded; 65 per cent of the responses for the fourth reporting period were submitted after the deadline of 30 June 2006. Below is a summary of the actions reported by Member States in the fourth reporting period.

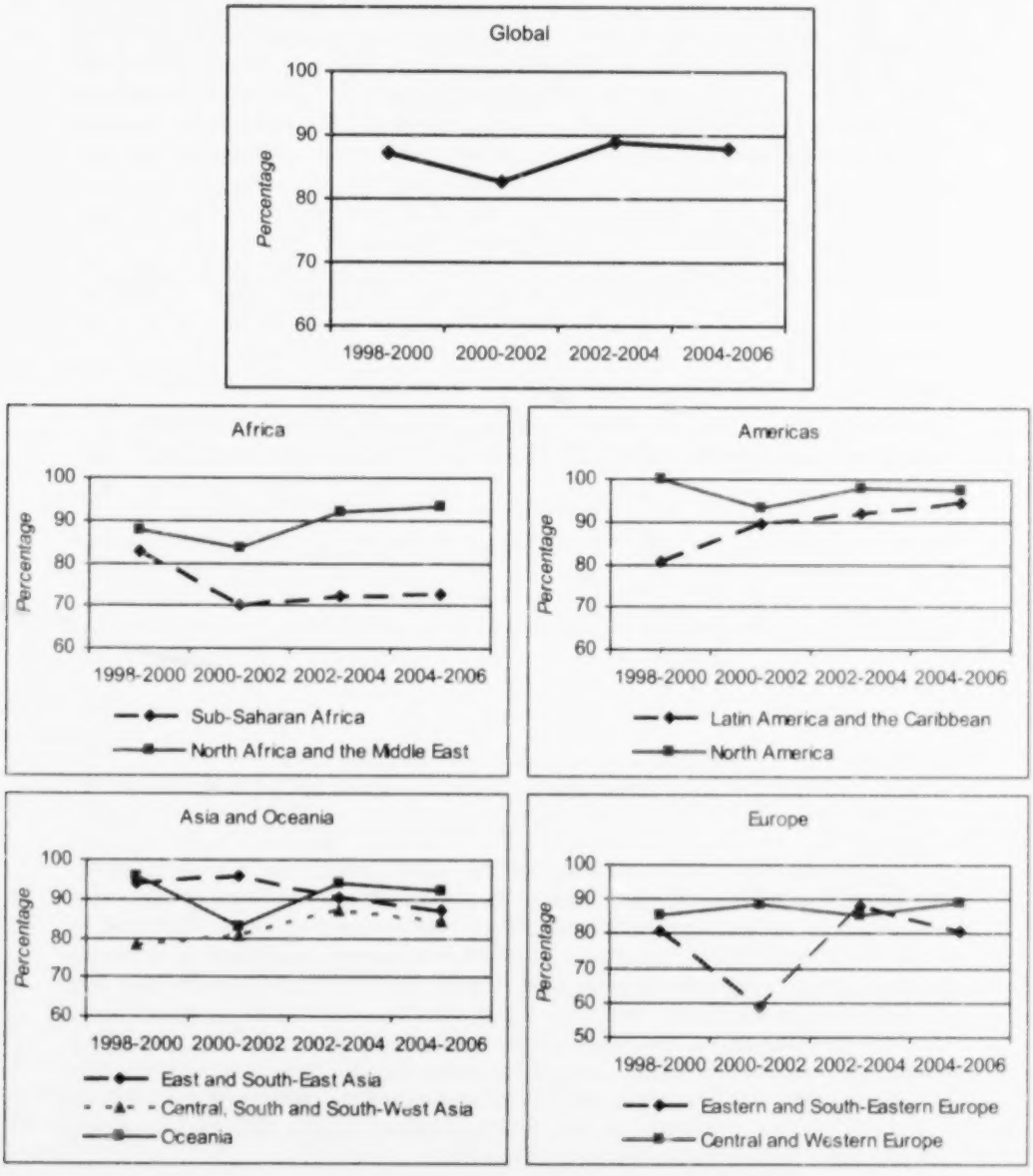
(a) National drug control strategies

18. The 94 States that responded to the 2004-2006 biennial reports implemented 88 per cent of the actions envisaged as measures to assess the establishment of a national drug control infrastructure, namely having in place national drug control strategies that were multisectoral and national drug control coordinating bodies. Figure I shows the degree of compliance with the introduction of the envisaged measures at the global and regional levels by responding States in each reporting period.

[1] For the list of responding States see the report of the Executive Director (E/CN.7/2007/2).

Figure I

Compliance by responding States with measures envisaged to establish national drug control infrastructure at the global and regional levels, 1998-2000, 2000-2002, 2002-2004 and 2004-2006



19. Figure I shows that the degree of commitment to establishing national drug control infrastructure remained high, for all regions recorded a compliance rate of over 70 per cent. This demonstrates a high degree of sustained political commitment

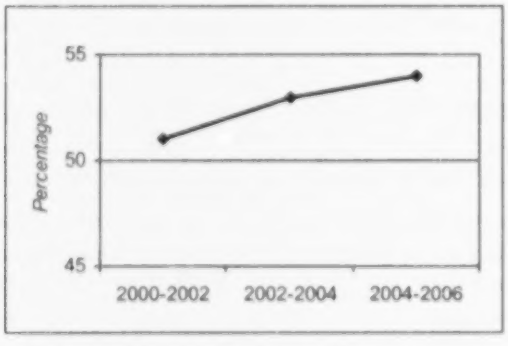
by Member States to tackling the world drug problem and must be regarded as a significant achievement.

(b) Demand reduction

20. Member States established 2003 as a target year for new and enhanced drug demand reduction strategies and programmes and committed themselves to achieving significant and measurable results by 2008. Through the biennial reports questionnaire, they reported on: (a) the existence of a national drug demand reduction strategy; (b) their capacity to assess the problem through data collection and analysis; (c) their capacity to tackle the problem through interventions focusing on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and by reducing the negative consequences of drug abuse; (d) the forging of partnerships and networking mechanisms; (e) the existence of programmes focusing on the most vulnerable or special population groups; (f) the use of media and public information campaigns; and (g) the capacity to evaluate and make use of lessons learned.[2] Globally, considerable progress was made in complying with the measures envisaged in the area of demand reduction (see figure II).

Figure II

Proportion of reported compliance with drug demand reduction measures, global average, 2000-2002, 2002-2004 and 2004-2006



21. In most regions, States reported having implemented over 75 per cent of the activities mentioned in the questionnaire. In Central, South and South-West Asia, a notable increase was registered, from 50 per cent during the period 1998-2000 to over 75 per cent during the period 2004-2006. Countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe approached the level of Central and Western Europe. In East and South-East Asia and North America, a high proportion of measures continued to be implemented during all reporting periods. In Oceania, the number of policy and strategic responses increased substantially during the last three reporting periods. Countries in sub Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean seem to have experienced some difficulties in the fourth reporting period after having scored 75 per cent or higher during the period 2000-2002.

22. Increased investments in demand reduction programmes had been registered in nearly all regions since 1998. Nearly all (96 per cent) of responding countries had a

[2] See the report of the Executive Director on drug demand reduction (E/CN.7/2007/2/Add.1).

national demand reduction strategy, and 8 out of 10 (81 per cent) based their national strategy on an assessment of the drug problem. Nine out of 10 countries (88 per cent) reported having national strategies that were multisectoral, while 65 per cent of countries said they had dedicated a budget to demand reduction.

23. The capacity to collect and analyse information, as well as to assess the nature and magnitude of drug abuse, increased. A considerable gap, however, existed between regions with long-established drug abuse monitoring structures (North America, Oceania, and Central and Western Europe), and those with less developed infrastructure, expertise or national and regional coordination and monitoring capacity (in particular, Sub-Saharan Africa, and North Africa and the Middle East).

24. The global trend in prevention remained positive. The most common intervention (implemented in eight out of the nine subregions) was the provision of information. In most cases, these kinds of interventions were expanded and improved. Nonetheless, Member States were called to intensify efforts in order to meet the commitments made at the special session.

25. Overall, more treatment and rehabilitation interventions were implemented. Detoxification remained the most common intervention and substitution treatment the least common in all regions.

26. The global situation with regard to social reintegration remained stable. A positive global trend was recorded in activities to improve media and awareness-raising campaigns, at 76 per cent compliance in the period 2004-2006. However, the proportion of States that based their campaigns on needs assessments decreased from 75 to 67 per cent. Most States (82 per cent) provided demand reduction practitioners with training on how to convey their message. Such training needed to be sustained as it provided a foundation for ensuring that drug reduction interventions were consistent and effective.

(c) Illicit synthetic drugs

27. At the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, in 1998, Member States agreed to devote particular attention to the illicit manufacture, trafficking and consumption of synthetic drugs. Consequently, they called for the establishment or strengthening of national legislation and programmes giving effect to the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors. They also established the year 2008 as a target date for States to reduce significantly the illicit manufacture and marketing of and trafficking in psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs, and the diversion of precursors (Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex). Member States provided information on the implementation of the Action Plan in the following areas: policy and strategic responses; capacity to collect and analyse information; international and multisectoral cooperation; measures to improve technical capacity to detect and monitor the problem of including capacity to understand it; and measures to improve awareness and reduce demand.[3]

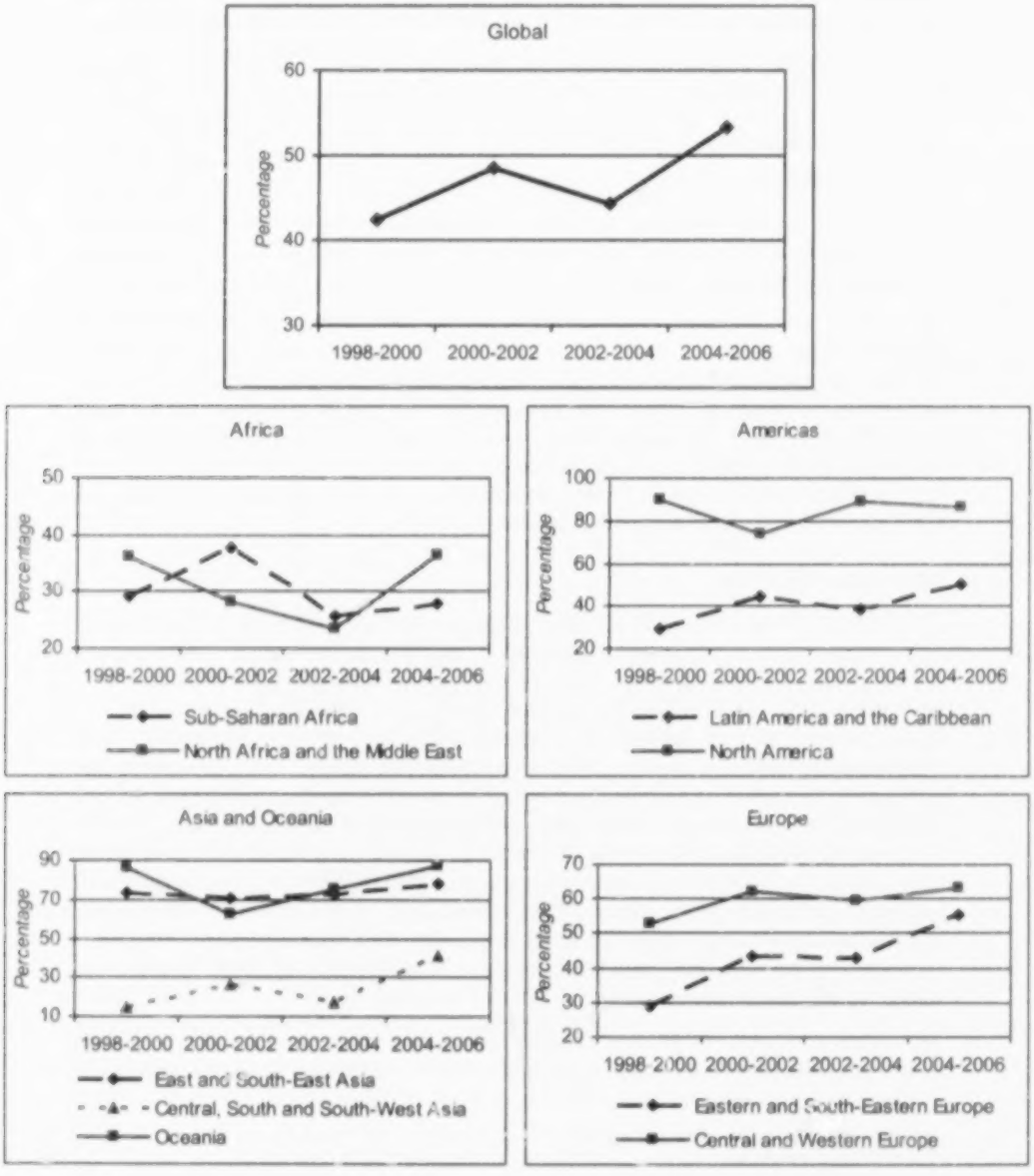
28. Significant but insufficient progress was achieved at the global level in terms of overall compliance by reporting countries with the measures envisaged in the

[3] For more details, see the report of the Executive Director on the Action Plan (E/CN.7/2007/2/Add.4).

Action Plan, which stood at 53 per cent for the period 2004-2006. At the regional level, compliance fluctuated from subregion to subregion and from one reporting period to another (see figure III).

Figure III

Compliance by responding Member States with measures envisaged in the Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and Their Precursors at the global and regional levels, 1998-2000, 2000-2002, 2002-2004 and 2004-2006



29. The Action Plan was implemented most enthusiastically in regions with high levels for the manufacture of, trafficking in or abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants: Oceania and North America, followed by East and South-East Asia, Western and Central Europe, and Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. The highest levels of implementation and the greatest improvements at the global level were achieved in the area of "policy and strategic responses" (59 per cent), "improvement of awareness and demand reduction" (56 per cent) and "capacity to collect information" (56 per cent). Although "international and multisectoral cooperation" was still the least developed area (46 per cent), it had also improved over the period 2002-2004.

(d) Control of precursors

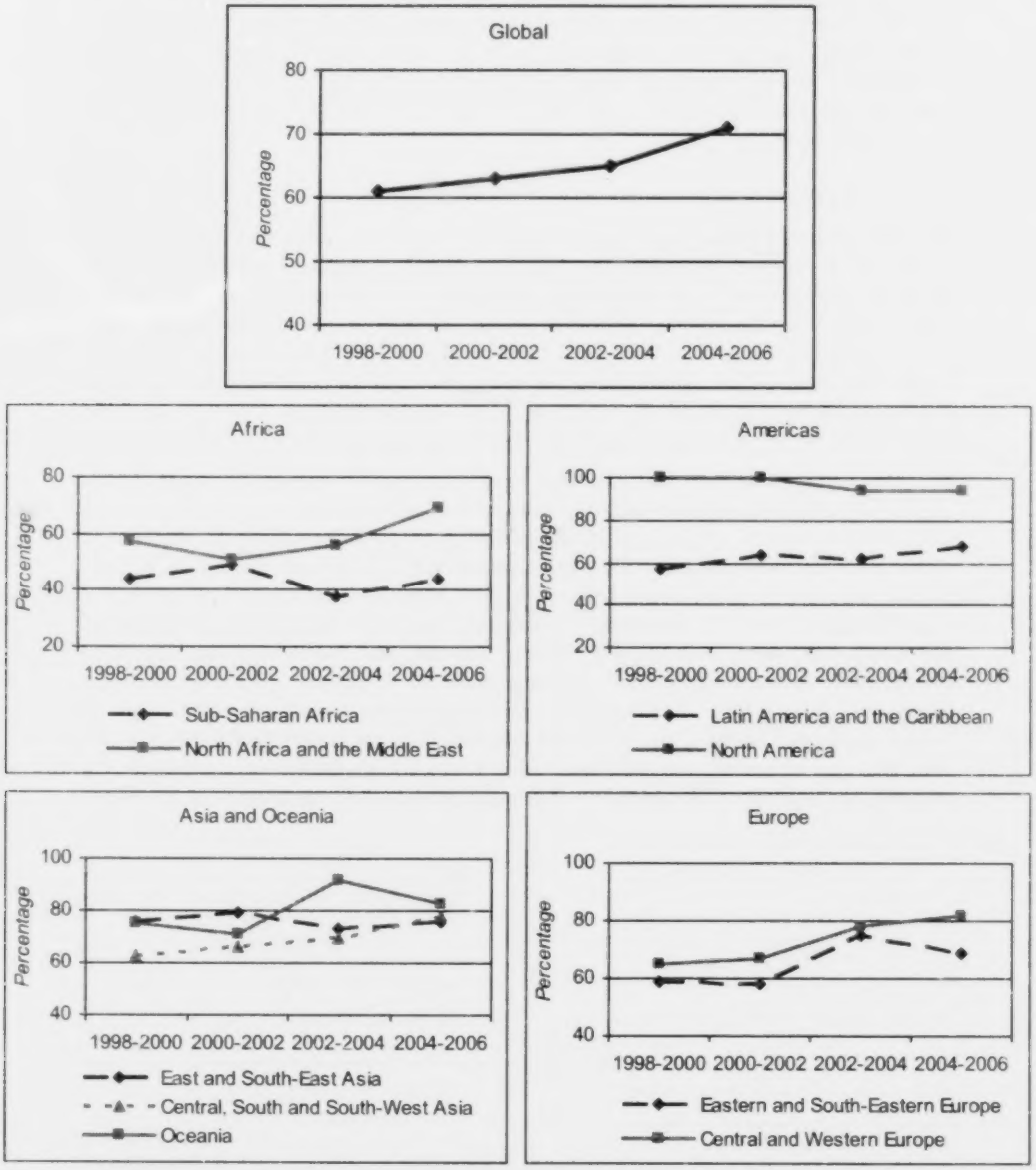
30. The fourth biennial report questionnaire received 91 responses related to the control of precursors.[4] Worldwide, reporting Member States could improve their level of compliance with envisaged measures for the control of precursors. Nevertheless, in the fourth reporting period, another 6 percentage points were gained compared with the period 2002-2004. At the subregional level, the degree of implementation varied significantly, ranging from 44 per cent (in Sub-Saharan Africa) to 94 per cent (in North America). Most regions reported improved or stable compliance rates between the period 2002-2004 and the period 2004-2006.

31. The subregions in Africa reported significant improvements. In North Africa and the Middle East precursor control compliance increased from 56 per cent in the period 2002-2004 to 69 per cent in the period 2004-2006, and from 38 per cent to 44 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa between those same periods. There were also improvements in Central, South and South-West Asia (an increase of 9 per cent) and in Latin America and the Caribbean (an increase of 6 per cent). The situation in East and South-East Asia, Central and Western Europe, and North America remained stable, while Eastern Europe and Oceania reported decreases. Figure IV shows a composite index of the key measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, in 1998, and implemented by reporting Member States over the four reporting periods. The results show a high degree of compliance by responding countries with regard to the implementation of measures for precursor control.

[4] The present subsection contains data from the report of the Executive Director on the control of precursors (E/CN.7/2007/2/Add.5).

Figure IV

Implementation by responding States of measures envisaged for the control of precursors at the global and regional levels, 1998-2000, 2000-2002, 2002-2004 and 2004-2006



32. In the period 2004-2006, 91 per cent of responding Member States (compared with 82 per cent in the period 2002-2004) reported having precursor control legislation. Of these, 66 per cent had enacted new or revised existing laws. On average, 18 Member States reported formulating legislation at each of the reporting

periods, reflecting a willingness to update regulatory framework and comply with international requirements.

33. A rise in the introduction of import and export authorization systems had been observed since 1998. During the period 2004-2006, 94 per cent of responding countries indicated that they had implemented a prior authorization system, an increase of 8 percentage points over the period 2002-2004. Three quarters of responding countries had procedures for monitoring and identifying suspicious transactions involving precursors, and the percentage that had established codes of conduct for the chemical industry increased by 13 percentage points, to 41 per cent, between the period 2002-2004 and the period 2004-2006. Many Member States had introduced measures to monitor trade in and prevent the diversion of materials and equipment used in the illicit production or manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (an increase from 59 per cent to 66 per cent between the same periods). The proportion of countries that reported having procedures to investigate the diversion of chemicals remained stable (at 67 per cent) between the periods 2002-2004 and 2004-2006. About one third (30 per cent) of responding States provided technical assistance for precursor control to other States in the period 2004-2006, an increase of 9 percentage points compared with the period 2002-2004. On the other hand, 46 per cent of respondents reported receiving technical assistance during the period 2004-2006.

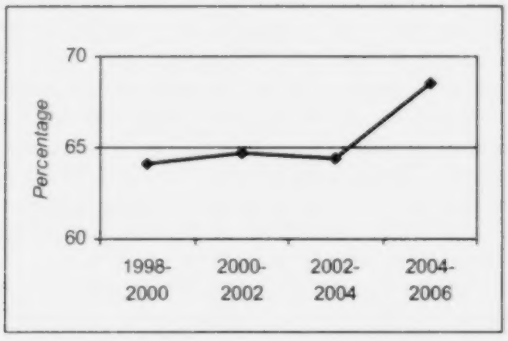
(e) Judicial cooperation

34. At the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States undertook to promote measures to strengthen judicial cooperation. To assess overall compliance with the measures adopted at the twentieth special session, a composite index of the key actions envisaged by Member States has been developed. The index groups together indicators contained in section IV of the biennial reports questionnaire to produce a composite average at the global, regional and subregional levels. The results, which are based on the 90 replies received from States to the biennial reports questionnaire, show a steady and slightly increasing trend in compliance with the measures envisaged in the area of judicial cooperation (see figure V).[5]

[5] For more details, see the report of the Executive Director on measures to promote judicial cooperation (E/CN.7/2007/2/Add.3).

Figure V

Global compliance with measures to enhance judicial cooperation by reporting countries



35. Most States reported having strengthened their legal framework in order to facilitate international judicial cooperation. For the period 2004-2006, 84 per cent of responding States indicated that their legislation facilitated extradition and 28 per cent indicated that they had reviewed, simplified or otherwise strengthened extradition procedures in connection with drug-related cases, bringing to 78 the total number of States and territories that had revised or reviewed their procedures since 1998.

36. The majority (81 per cent) of States reporting in the period 2004-2006 had adopted legislation on mutual legal assistance, with 37 per cent having reviewed, simplified or otherwise strengthened procedures for mutual legal assistance.

37. Seventy-eight per cent of responding States had instituted law enforcement cooperation and information exchange programmes with other States. Over three quarters of reporting States (78 per cent in the period 2004-2006) had shared information with other States on criminal investigation techniques, and 74 per cent had established specialized units for investigating cases involving drug trafficking. Most States (83 per cent) had also strengthened training programmes for law enforcement personnel. The legislation in 84 per cent of States replying in the period 2004-2006 provided for the use of controlled delivery. Since the first reporting period, 69 States had reported revising their laws and procedures in this regard.

38. In the period 2004-2006, 66 per cent of reporting States had legislation permitting cooperation with other States in countering trafficking by sea, compared with 44 per cent in the period 2002-2004. Thirty-seven per cent of States reported entering into bilateral or multilateral agreements to cooperate in countering drug trafficking by sea.

39. In the period 2004-2006, 69 per cent of States had legislation, rules or procedures for the protection of judges, prosecutors, surveillance personnel, law enforcement officers and witnesses, and 40 per cent had reviewed, simplified or otherwise strengthened procedures for the protection of witnesses.

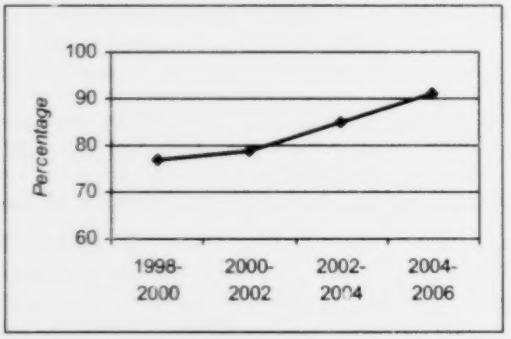
(f) Countering money-laundering

40. At its twentieth special session, the General Assembly recognized that the problem caused by the laundering of money derived from drug trafficking and other serious crimes had become a global threat to the integrity, reliability and stability of financial and trade systems, and even Government structures. Consequently, it urged all States to implement the provisions against money-laundering contained in the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[6] and other relevant international instruments. By the period 2004-2006, money-laundering legislation had not yet been adopted everywhere and, in some regions, States still needed to intensify their efforts to criminalize the laundering of proceeds derived from drug trafficking and other serious crimes. Globally, 91 per cent of States responding in the period 2004-2006 noted that their legislation provided for the freezing, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of illicit drug trafficking and other serious crimes.[7]

41. The region of Latin America and the Caribbean showed a slight increase (3 per cent) in the proportion of countries complying with this requirement. An increase of 15 per cent was registered in Central, South and South-West Asia, while a decline of 7 per cent was observed in Sub-Saharan Africa.

42. Globally, there was a steady increase throughout all four reporting periods in the proportion of Member States that criminalized money-laundering and an increase of 6 per cent between the period 2002-2004 and the period 2004-2006, bringing the compliance rate to 91 per cent (see figure VI).

Figure VI
Criminalizing money-laundering: global compliance, 1998-2000, 2000-2002, 2002-2004 and 2004-2006



43. In the period 2004-2006, most reporting States had legislation that enabled the freezing, seizure and confiscation of the proceeds of crime. Eastern and South-Eastern Europe showed a steady increase since the period 1998-2000, while East and South-East Asia showed a 4 per cent decline. North Africa and the Middle East recorded an increase of 28 per cent since the third reporting period, with 88 per cent of the countries in this region indicating that their legislation provided for the

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[7] For more details, see the report of the Executive Director on countering money-laundering (E/CN.7/2007/2/Add.6).

temporary prohibition of the transfer, conversion, disposition or movement of property, or the temporary assumption of custody or control of property, as well as the permanent deprivation of property. In addition, 79 per cent of responding States had made money-laundering an extraditable offence; the figure reached 79 per cent by the period 2004-2006.

44. A greater percentage of responding States had legislation requiring individuals to declare the cross-border transportation of cash and negotiable bearer instruments. In North America and Oceania, the reported compliance rate was 100 per cent for the period 2004-2006, while in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe it reached 71 per cent. Less than 50 per cent of responding States in North Africa and the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and Central, South and South-West Asia had legislation requiring individuals to declare when they transported cash across borders.

45. Most of the world's subregions had taken measures to prevent and detect money-laundering by financial entities, including the reporting of suspicious and/or unusual transactions, "know-your-client" practices, the identification of the beneficial owners of accounts and the establishment of financial intelligence units. Worldwide, there was an increase of 4 percentage points, from 15 to 19 per cent, between the period 2002-2004 and the period 2004-2006, in the implementation of measures such as the reporting of suspicious and/or unusual transactions, "know-your-client" practices, the identification of beneficial owners of accounts and the establishment of financial intelligence units.

(g) Illicit crop eradication and alternative development

46. Despite a massive increase in opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2006, the total area under such cultivation worldwide was still 10 per cent lower than in 2000. However, global opium production increased by 33 per cent between 2005 and 2006 as a result of an increase of 59 per cent in such production in Afghanistan (165,000 hectares of opium poppy were harvested and 6,600 tons of opium were produced in 2006), which accounted for 92 per cent of global opium production.

47. Illicit opium production in South-East Asia continued to decline for the sixth consecutive year. Opium poppy cultivation in the Golden Triangle fell by some 80 per cent since 2000. That was largely due to large declines in such cultivation in Myanmar, where it decreased by a further 34 per cent to 21,500 hectares in 2006.

48. Illicit coca bush cultivation in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru declined by 29 per cent between 2000 and 2006, from 221,300 to 156,900 hectares. Better yields and improved know-how resulted in potential cocaine manufacture remaining at 984 tons in 2006, largely unchanged from estimates for the mid-1990s.

49. Regarding illicit cannabis plant cultivation, UNODC estimated that 530,000 hectares were dedicated to this crop and that 42,000 tons of cannabis herb were harvested in 2005. Cannabis plants were grown in 172 countries and territories in the period 1995-2005, mostly in the Americas (46 per cent), followed by Africa (26 per cent), Asia (22 per cent), Europe (5 per cent) and Oceania (1 per cent).

50. Section VI of the fourth biennial reports questionnaire, covering the period 2004-2006, elicited 90 responses from States, the same number as in the period 2002-2004.

51. A total of 36 Governments, or 40 per cent of respondents, reported that they had national plans or programmes that included alternative development strategies for countering cannabis plant, opium poppy and coca bush cultivation. The percentage of countries with such plans or programmes was the same as in the period 2002-2004. Forty-one States, or 46 per cent of respondents, reported that their national plans or programmes included eradication or other enforcement measures (see figures VII and VIII).

Figure VII

Proportion of reporting States with national plans or programmes to reduce and eliminate the cultivation of illicit drug crops, by type of plan, 1998-2000, 2000-2002, 2002-2004 and 2004-2006

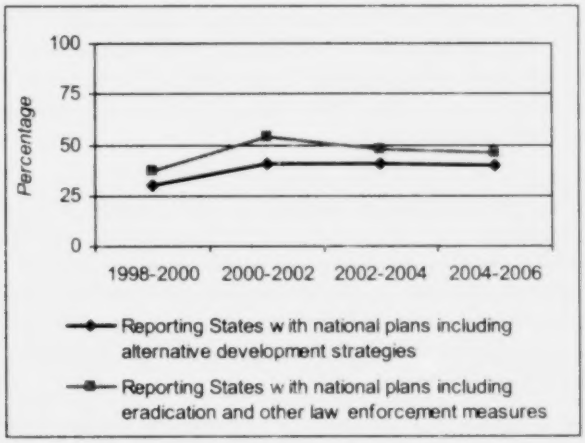
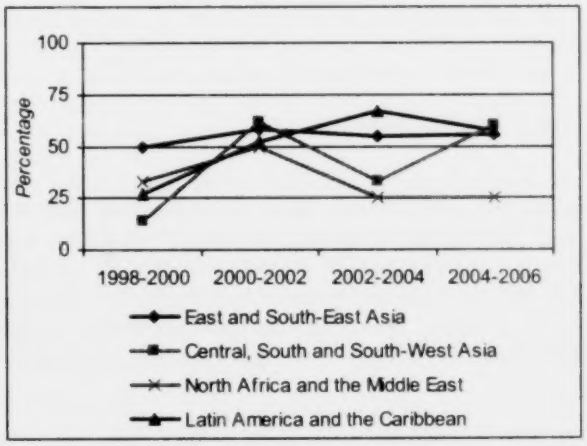


Figure VIII

Proportion of reporting States with national plans or programmes to reduce and eliminate the cultivation of illicit drug crops, selected regions, 1998-2000, 2000-2002, 2002-2004 and 2004-2006



52. In the period 2004-2006, 24 countries reported providing assistance to other countries on a bilateral, regional or multilateral basis through alternative development programmes, compared with 18 countries in the period 2002-2004 and 30 countries in the period 2000-2002. Most countries reporting on multilateral assistance for alternative development indicated that their support was channelled through UNODC.

53. Only nine countries reported negotiating financial assistance for alternative development and eradication programmes with international financial institutions and/or regional development banks, and only five had secured such assistance. Most noted that their alternative development and eradication programmes were financed domestically.

54. Insufficient financial resources was the leading constraint on the implementation of alternative development programmes (cited by 30 per cent of respondents); it was followed by a lack of supporting structures and a lack of expertise and coordination. In the period 2004-2006, 30 States (compared with 24 in the period 2002-2004) said that they had the technical expertise to initiate alternative development programmes.

55. Approximately one quarter of States indicated that their alternative development programmes provided support for the establishment and training of community organizations. Twenty-two States (compared with 14 in the period 2002-2004) reported that their programmes extended financial support to community initiatives. An increasing number of reporting States indicated that their alternative development programmes provided for participatory approaches, incorporated a gender dimension, targeted the poorest and most vulnerable groups and took into account environmental concerns.

56. There was an increase in the number of countries using ground and satellite imagery to monitor illicit crop cultivation. Some countries also reported using other methodologies to estimate the extent of such cultivation.

57. Eighteen States had systems to monitor and evaluate the qualitative and quantitative impact of alternative development and eradication programmes. Twenty-four countries reported regularly assessing the impact of law enforcement and alternative development measures. Seven Governments cited financial constraints and lack of technical expertise as reasons for not having monitoring and evaluation systems.

III. Action by the United Nations system

58. Through its drug programme, UNODC aims to make the world safer from drugs by supporting the main United Nations policymaking bodies in the field of drug control[8] and Member States through technical assistance, legal advice and research. UNODC is strategically well placed to identify those areas in the world where its involvement can make the greatest contribution by strengthening regional capacity or mobilizing support by the international community to match recipients' needs. The operations of UNODC are goal-oriented and seek solutions to

[8] The Commission on Narcotic Drugs and its subsidiary bodies.

challenging new trends and emerging problems. UNODC assists States in fulfilling their drug control commitments and supports their efforts to meet the standards they have set for themselves.

59. UNODC has been mandated to assist Member States in implementing the provisions of the international legal instruments on drugs. UNODC advises States on all aspects of the drug control conventions, from introducing preventive measures and criminalization to enhancing capacity for improved international cooperation.

60. In 2006 and 2007, UNODC continued to improve the coverage and quality of data and analysis it made available to Member States. In the 2007 edition of its flagship publication, the *World Drug Report*,[9] UNODC presented the trends in the world's illicit drug markets, showed the progress made in the period 2005-2006 and highlighted weak elements in the global drug control system, most notably opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and cocaine demand in Europe.

A. Demand reduction

61. With the aim of achieving significant results in reducing demand for drugs by 2008, UNODC continued to focus on drug abuse prevention, particularly among young people. Prevention work at the global level focused on more effective approaches to preventing the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, with training modules for policymakers and non-governmental organizations on the prevention of such abuse.

62. In 2006, UNODC assisted Member States in developing evidence-based treatment services that could be accessed by drug-dependent persons in need of treatment. The international network of drug dependence treatment and rehabilitation resource centres, Treatnet, provided diversified services for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug-dependent persons and established a network that reached as many as 80,000 clients.

63. Through the Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse, UNODC supported Member States in: data collection and drug abuse epidemiology, contributing to the collection of more complete and standardized data; an improved information base on the drug abuse situation in the regions assisted directly by the Programme; and the provision of assistance to over 70 countries. Those activities have allowed UNODC to produce more reliable reports and this enabled the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the international community to assess the progress made in achieving the goals set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

64. In partnership with UNAIDS, UNODC continued to support countries in scaling up interventions in the areas of injecting drug abuse, prisons and trafficking in persons. UNODC has placed regional advisers in selected countries and regions to provide expertise and facilitate the implementation of activities in these three mandated areas.

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[9] *World Drug Report 2007* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XI.5).

B. Supply reduction and law enforcement

65. UNODC continued to serve as the secretariat of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, namely the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East and the regional meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies. Four meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission were held in 2006: the forty-first session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Amman from 26 to 30 June; the sixteenth meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Nairobi from 25 to 29 September; the sixteenth meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires from 23 to 27 October; and the thirtieth meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 14 to 17 November.

66. The recommendations made by the subsidiary bodies, which were brought to the attention of the Commission at its fiftieth session, addressed issues such as regional trends in trafficking in and consumption of heroin and other opiates, regional cooperation in the exchange of criminal intelligence on drug trafficking, identifying sound practice in the training of law enforcement officials, the growing importance of Africa in international cocaine trafficking, the illicit cultivation of cannabis plants in Africa, trafficking in cannabis and its impact, responses to cocaine manufacture and trafficking, the rising threat of the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, and maritime trafficking in illicit drugs.

67. The Paris Pact initiative, a compact of States and organizations aimed at implementing concerted measures to limit the smuggling of Afghan opiates through Europe and West and Central Asia, has proved an effective and dynamic mechanism for bringing together the affected transit States and international donors. Two expert round-table meetings were held in 2006: on cross-border cooperation and the exchange of information and intelligence between Afghanistan and its neighbouring countries.

68. The Government of the Russian Federation, in cooperation with UNODC, organized the Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan. The Conference, held in Moscow from 26 to 28 June 2006, adopted the Moscow Declaration (A/61/208-S/2006/598, annex), highlighting the importance of the international community's support to the Government of Afghanistan in implementing its National Drug Control Strategy. In addition to recommending for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution to support the drug control measures and programmes of Afghanistan (see para. 8 above), the Commission adopted resolution 50/1, entitled "Follow-up to the Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan" (E/2007/28, paras. 1 and 3).

69. In promoting international law enforcement cooperation, a memorandum of understanding has been signed by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to establish a regional centre for sharing information, known as the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre. A similar centre is under consideration to serve the States in the Persian Gulf area. Those agencies will contribute to increased operational law

enforcement cooperation and improved information exchange to increase drug seizures and the dismantling of criminal groups.

70. Through its Global Programme against Money-Laundering, UNODC continues to assist States in developing mechanisms for combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. The Global Programme provides assistance to Member States to comply with international standards in areas such as drafting legislation, training investigators, prosecutors and operators in the financial sector, and strengthening financial intelligence units. UNODC also continues to build its cooperation with the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF)-style regional bodies as a platform for appropriate technical assistance delivery.

C. Alternative livelihoods

71. UNODC has continued to foster stronger political commitment and increased support by the development community for alternative development programmes to reduce or eliminate illicit crop cultivation.

72. UNODC programmes in the three Andean countries (Bolivia, Colombia and Peru) emphasize environmental protection, gender equality and participatory approaches to reducing poverty. In Colombia, UNODC-supported alternative development programmes have promoted forest conservation, forest products and the production of coffee, honey and cacao, reaching an estimated 8,000 families. In Peru, UNODC has worked with farmers' associations to provide technical assistance in agricultural technology, business management, quality assurance and marketing. The sales generated as a result of alternative development projects are expected to reach $47.8 million in 2006. In Bolivia, a new four-year phase of the agroforestry programme was started in 2006 and is expected to benefit 4,500 farming families in the targeted areas.

73. In South-East Asia, UNODC alternative development programmes have focused on food security and poverty alleviation. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNODC, in partnership with other United Nations agencies, has provided alternative development assistance to affected communities. The programmes cover areas such as basic health care, treatment and rehabilitation for addicts, sustainable livelihoods and essential infrastructure.

74. The UNODC Wa alternative development project in Myanmar has reached some 40,000 people, mitigating the impact of opium poppy eradication through community-based activities. In both the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar, UNODC has supported policies and projects focusing on environmental conservation and livelihoods.

75. In the framework of its Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme, UNODC, together with the respective national drug control agencies, has conducted annual surveys in Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Morocco, Myanmar and Peru.

76. In June 2006, UNODC published a study entitled *Coca Cultivation in the Andean Region: a Survey of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru*, which showed that coca bush cultivation remained stable in the Andean countries in 2005. In

September 2006 and February 2007, the Office also published opium poppy surveys.

77. In 2006, UNODC published the results of the third survey of cannabis plant cultivation in Morocco,[10] which showed a 40 per cent decrease in the total area under cannabis plant cultivation between 2004 and 2005.

D. Strengthening the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

78. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 48/14,[11] UNODC developed a medium-term strategy for the period 2008-2011 to enhance accountability by implementing result-based management.

79. At its fiftieth session, the Commission recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution entitled "Strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime" (E/2007/28, para. 1).

80. While UNODC financial resource management has focused on improved financial information reporting, cost-saving measures, enhancing transparency and ensuring compliance, there has been a shortfall in general-purpose funds, which UNODC needs to better plan and implement long-term activities compatible with its mandates and core functions.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

81. The world drug problem can be surmounted if the international community is prepared to make the required investments and sustain them over time. Likewise, the targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly are reachable, provided the resources are made available in a sustained fashion over time and clear and consistent policies are developed and applied.

82. Having designated 2008 as the year for reviewing progress towards achieving the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States should reflect upon the achievements reached to date and the drug control priorities to be set for future concerted action. States facing significant drug control challenges could make voluntary public commitments to tackling them by setting targets and timelines, and others could make similar commitments of support.

83. Member States have continued to make progress in all sectors of the Political Declaration and related measures adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, in 1998. Nonetheless, much remains to be done in a number of significant areas.

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[10] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Morocco: Cannabis Survey 2005, Executive Summary* (January 2007).

[11] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 8* (E/2005/28/Rev.1), part two, chapter I, resolution 48/14.

84. A growing proportion of States have multisectoral and coordinated national drug control strategies, as well as the political and strategic foundations for effective demand reduction strategies.

85. In the area of demand reduction, Member States need to undertake further action to improve data collection and evaluation capacity; they should also expand prevention and treatment and rehabilitation initiatives in order to meet the targets for 2008.

86. The scourge of manufacture of, trafficking in and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants at the national and international levels remains a significant challenge. Member States should pay further attention to data collection and analysis capacity in this area and to the establishment of comprehensive monitoring systems and the enhancement of regional, international and multisectoral cooperation, including with industry, in order to better control the diversion of licit pharmaceuticals containing those substances and their precursors. Further resources are required to improve the technical capacity of Member States to detect, monitor and better understand the problem, and to better integrate forensic laboratories into national drug control efforts.

87. While significant progress has been made in providing a legislative and regulatory framework to combat money-laundering, eight years after the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, money-laundering remains a global threat to the integrity, reliability and stability of financial and trade systems, in particular in some regions of the world. Member States that have not yet done so should, without delay, update their legal and regulatory frameworks, establish financial investigation units and seek technical assistance, including from UNODC, in particular with regard to the identification, freezing, seizing and confiscation of the proceeds of crime. Where applicable, Member States should participate in relevant regional and international anti-money-laundering mechanisms. Pursuant to article 5, para. 5 (a)(i), of the 1988 Convention, States should actively consider using some or all of the proceeds of seized assets for drug abuse prevention initiatives and combating drug trafficking, including by making contributions to UNODC.

88. Most countries affected by illicit crop cultivation reported having the technical expertise to implement illicit crop eradication and alternative development programmes, but evidence suggests that financial constraints and declining levels of international technical assistance are once again becoming impediments to further progress.

89. While impressive progress has been achieved by countries in South-East Asia in reducing illicit opium poppy cultivation, those efforts need to be sustained. Former opium growers in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar who live in extreme poverty require sound and sustainable development assistance. More needs to be done by the international community to assist those communities in facing the challenges posed in the post-opium-cultivating period.

90. The complexity of the situation in Afghanistan urgently requires concerted and coordinated action by national authorities and the international community. Security and the rule of law need to be improved and reach all provinces of that country. The incipient criminal justice system needs to be further developed and made capable of bringing drug traffickers and corrupt officials to justice. Those are prerequisites for effective drug control.

91. Some measurable progress in reducing illicit crop cultivation and providing economic alternatives to affected populations has been made in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru in recent years. However, the most recent figures emerging from countries in the region indicate a possible reversal of that trend. States in the region need to reassert their efforts in this regard by upholding and implementing the internationally agreed drug control conventions as a sine qua non for international cooperation. This re-emergence of illicit crop production has already been reflected in drug trafficking and abuse trends in other countries in the region. The international community should reaffirm its solidarity with countries affected by illicit crop cultivation and provide further technical and financial assistance for the establishment of harmonized systems to finance development assistance for communities and areas affected by such cultivation. Assistance is also needed to improve systems for measuring the qualitative and quantitative impact of alternative development and eradication programmes.

92. In this context, environmental sustainability criteria should be promoted, as should ways of ensuring better coordination and the integration of drug control objectives into overall development interventions.

93. The international framework on judicial cooperation has been strengthened considerably since 1998. Many States still preclude or limit the extradition of nationals. Difficulties have also been reported in relation to the execution of controlled deliveries. Member States should take action to overcome obstacles to international cooperation, in order to ensure the successful implementation of the measures to promote judicial cooperation adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, particularly with regard to mutual legal assistance, exchange of information and joint operations.

94. Obstacles still stand in the way of the global implementation of the recommendations made in 1998 with regard to the control of precursors. In some countries, technical know-how and loopholes in legislation and/or monitoring systems and lack of resources, were cited as obstacles. Member States should make available adequate human and financial resources to ensure the effective functioning of national precursor control systems and increase their efforts to ensure that the officials responsible receive adequate training. In this regard, Member States should ensure full cooperation among themselves and through the International Narcotics Control Board. They should also support UNODC so that they can respond to requests from Governments for technical assistance in preventing the diversion of precursors.

95. Member States should actively consider ways to strengthen mechanisms for the collection and sharing of information on trafficking in precursors, in particular for making seizures, preventing diversions, detaining consignments, dismantling laboratories and assessing emerging trafficking and diversions trends, new manufacturing methods and the use of non-controlled substances, with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of the international control and monitoring system.

96. In 1998, Member States made major commitments to combating the world drug problem. Those commitments were made to other Governments and, most importantly, to their peoples. The impact of the world drug problem on the social, economic, health, political and governance aspects of societies continues to be significant. Member States have an obligation to seriously reconsider those

commitments, review achievements and map out any further action that may be needed. That process will commence at the fifty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in 2008, with the consideration of the report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem and by a special thematic debate on the subject, and will culminate with a high-level segment of the Commission at its fifty-second session, in 2009, which will report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council pursuant to Commission resolution 50/12, entitled "Measures to meet the goal of establishing by 2009 the progress achieved in implementing the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session" (E/2007/28, para. 2).

97. The Assembly should consider reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the Political Declaration, the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, as well as the Joint Ministerial Statement.

98. Member States at the Assembly should encourage other States to request assistance, if needed, to meet the goals set for 2008, and to request UNODC to facilitate the provision of such technical assistance to States. They should also call for UNODC to be provided with adequate regular budget resources to enable it to meet its mandates. Member States are encouraged to continue and further increase their financial and political support for the work of UNODC.